

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the following amendments and remarks. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments and remarks require no new searching and only cursory review by the Examiner, and place the application into form for immediate allowance. Applicants further ask that the thusly amended application be reconsidered and allowed.

Current Status of the Claims

As of the December 6th Office Action, which was made final, claims 1-54, 65-76, 81-112, and 139-153 were pending in the application, of which:

Claims 1-54, 65-76, 81-94, and 139-153 are allowed;

Claim 97 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter; and

Claims 95, 96, and 98-112 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blankenship, U.S. Patent No. 5,278,390 (hereinafter "Blankenship") in view of Kiyohara et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,125,759 (hereinafter "Kiyohara") in further view of Joseph et al., "Electrical Measurements and Heat Input Calculations for the GMAW-P Process" (hereinafter "Joseph").

Rejected claims 95 and 101-112 are canceled herein

Applicants have canceled rejected claims 95 and 101-112. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or other related application claiming priority to the present application.

Claim 97, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form

Claim 97, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form including the limitations of canceled base claim 95. Additionally, dependent claims 96 and 98-100 have been amended to depend from claim 97. Minor amendments to claims 96 and 97 have been made to correct informalities relating to the first signal. Accordingly, It is respectfully submitted that claims 96-100 are now in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants accordingly respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 96-100.

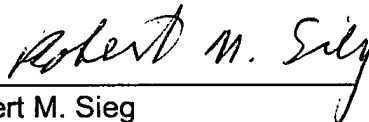
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-54, 65-76, 81-94, 96-100, and 139-153 (all claims) as set forth herein patentably distinguish over the references, and respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final and reconsideration and allowance of the claims as set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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